

**SCOTTSDALE** - U.S. Rep. Harry E. Mitchell today released the following statement regarding a U.S. District Judge's decision to block the federal government from funding all research involving human embryonic stem cells.

"I'm disappointed that funding for stem cell research has been blocked. I believe that research and science can be used effectively to discover treatments for the millions of Americans who suffer from a wide array of diseases and conditions. Many scientists believe embryonic stem cells hold greater promise than adult stem cells for further scientific breakthroughs which will advance research on many devastating diseases.

Investing in science and ethical research is right in line with what the majority of the American people, including my constituents, have long wanted to see. Searching as hard as we can for cures to these terrible diseases is more than just smart policy, it's a moral obligation."

Mitchell's first floor speech after taking office in 2007 was a call to overturn the stem cell research ban. He has also voted multiple times to overturn the ban since, including a measure, S. 5, that passed in June, 2007, on a bi-partisan vote of 247 to 176 only to be vetoed by President Bush.

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